

MHawaii MARINE

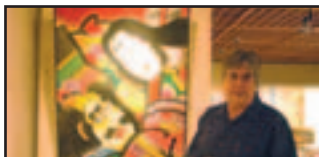
VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3

THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 19, 2007



Convoy
A



Toys
B



Basketball
C

Transition Team leaves for Iraq tour

Cpl. Rick Nelson

Combat Correspondent

A small team of Marines and Sailors from various units aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan, departed Jan. 9 for Iraq where they will provide training for the Iraqi Army.

The group of 11 Marines and two Sailors make up 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's, Military Transition Team.

"We all came together as a team Oct. 11," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert B. Hill, logistics chief, 1/3 MiTT. "Our members all come from (1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment), 3rd Marine Regiment and 1/3."

While in country, the team will train Iraqi Army soldiers in different combat tactics and situations, Hill added.

"This mission is going to be interesting, because we will be interacting with Iraqi soldiers at all times," said the Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. "We are going to eat, sleep, and be with them throughout our whole deployment."

In order to prepare for the deployment, the team completed various types of training throughout Hawaii.

"We conducted combat tactics, squad leader tactics, and a lot of other training while at (Pohakuloa Training Area) at Bellows and right here at K-Bay," he added. "We're going to be teaching their soldiers a lot of different things – ranging from medical to logistics training."

Hill, who was also in Iraq during Operation Southern Watch, said he's been trying to get on this team for more than a year and said he is looking forward to this deployment.

"I can't wait to go back over," said the San Antonio native. "I'm



Cpl. Rick Nelson

Marines and Sailors who make up the Military Transition Team are briefed at the 3rd Marine Regiment Building aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Jan. 9 before departing to Iraq. During the MiTT's seven-month tour in Iraq, Marines and Sailors will be training Iraqi Army soldiers.

going to miss my family a lot. I've got a 5-year-old and 4-month-old daughter here that I've got to come back to. Thoughts of them are going to be what keeps me going

while I'm out there."

The goal the team would like to achieve during their seven-month deployment is to leave the Iraqi Army in a position that will enable

them to be able to take care of their country without having to rely upon American forces.

"I think these deployments are a good idea," said Petty Officer 3rd

Class Jared M. Napier, a hospital corpsman assigned to 1/3 MiTT. "From what we've been taught, we will be able to help their army out a lot."

Calling in



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Lance Corporal Justin W. Lowe, team leader, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, makes a radio call after his convoy spots an improvised explosive device during convoy training. See A3 for story.

Service members remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Combat Correspondent

"And so, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It's a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

These famous words were first spoken Aug. 28, 1963, during a demonstration in Washington, D.C., and reinforced Jan. 11 by Lance Cpl. Travoski J. Lee, aviation operations, Marine Corps Air Facility, as he read the speech word for word at an observance ceremony at the Base Chapel aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Gunnery Sergeant Shawn C. Hill, staff noncommissioned officer, quality assurance, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Marine Aircraft Group 24, who preceded Lee read the Commandant's Martin Luther King Jr. day message.

In his message, the Commandant talked about Dr. King's life and how Marines continue to follow his dream, saying, "Marines honor Dr. King's dream as we continue to serve selflessly and proudly throughout the world, always guided by our core values of honor, courage and commitment. And by doing so, we continue to succeed in our mission of leading Marines and winning battles."

The guest speaker for the event was retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Edward Hanlon Jr. who spoke about the day he heard the famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

"I remember it was the summer – between my freshman and sophomore years of college," said Hanlon before the recognition ceremony began.

"A few friends and I heard that there was going to be a big march up, so we skipped work that day. I had heard about it on TV and wanted to see what was going on. I was very curious," admitted Hanlon.

"There were a lot of people there, so we were kind of toward the back when he actually delivered the speech. At that time you knew it was a great speech and special. Then, the more I began to see it on TV and hear it on the radio, the more powerful it became. I think it's as relevant



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Edward Hanlon Jr. speaks to an audience during a Martin Luther King Jr. observance Jan. 11 at the Base Chapel aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

today as it was back then. If people heard it today, then there wouldn't be as many problems today," he concluded.

The ceremony concluded with Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Tate, air traffic controller, MCAF, playing gospel music on a piano and Cpl. William Caban, weather observer also from MCAF, playing "Amazing Grace" on a saxophone.

"I think the Marine Corps is about leadership, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a leader," said Hanlon. "His message is as important today as it was back then."

NEWS BRIEFS

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Tax Center

The center is open from Jan. 22 to April 17 for those who would like to have their taxes done by the professionals. The center will be open for appointments and walk-ins Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The center is located on the second floor of Building 279. Call 257-4829 for directions and information.

If you are coming to the center to have your taxes done, bring:

- W2 Forms
- Bank account number and Bank's routing number
- Copy of last year's tax return
- All other tax forms (1099s, etc.)

Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments Monitors to Visit

Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments monitors from U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters, Quantico, Va., will arrive on Oahu for their annual visit Jan. 29 and 30. The purpose of the visit is to entertain duty assignment requests from enlisted Marines and their spouses and also to provide educational briefs aimed at enhancing a Marine's career opportunities.

There will be Career Briefs Jan. 29 at the Base Theater, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and at Camp H.M. Smith Jan 30 during which MMEA will provide information, such as, performance evaluation, career development updates, and Marine Security Guard Duty.

During and after the briefings, the monitors will be at their interview site at the Bachelor Officer's Quarter's Conference Room to meet with Marines and their spouses who want a face-to-face interview with their monitor. Marines should contact their unit Career Retention Specialist for additional information.

Appointments are on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be kept to a 10- to 15-minute time frame in order to allow maximum participation. Spouses are highly encouraged to accompany their Marine during the interviews and briefs

Contact your unit career planner for details.

KOSC Annual Art Auction

All Hands are invited to the KOSC Annual Art Auction Feb. 24 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Officers' Club aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The auction will begin with an art preview and pupus at 6 p.m. with the auction beginning at 7 p.m. For more information and tickets, contact Sherry at k-bayartauction@hotmail.com.

2007 Chief Doris Brewster Scholarship

The Hickam African-American Heritage Association is proud to announce the acceptance of applications for the 2007 Chief Doris Brewster Scholarship. This scholarship is open to all high school seniors who are dependents of active duty or retired military personnel who meet the minimum requirements to graduate from a high school in Hawaii.

Further information concerning AAHA and recurring activities may be directed to Senior Master Sgt. Darlene Johnson at 448-2209 ext. 251.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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The President issues citation to Corporal Jason L. Dunham

Marine Corps News

Headquarters Marine Corps

WASHINGTON — The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

CORPORAL
JASON L. DUNHAM
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following.

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifle Squad Leader, 4th Platoon, Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines (Reinforced), Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division (Reinforced), on 14 April 2004. Corporal Dunham's squad was conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire erupt approximately two kilometers to the west.

Corporal Dunham led his Combined Anti-Armor Team towards the engagement to provide fire support to their Battalion Commander's convoy, which had been ambushed as it was traveling to Camp Husaybah. As Corporal Dunham and his Marines advanced, they quickly began to receive enemy fire.

Corporal Dunham ordered his squad to dismount their vehicles and led one of his fire teams on foot several blocks south of the ambushed convoy. Discovering seven Iraqi vehicles in a column attempting to depart, Corporal Dunham and his team stopped the vehicles to search them for weapons.

As they approached the vehicles, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Corporal Dunham. Corporal Dunham wrestled the insurgent to the ground and in the ensuing struggle saw the insurgent release a grenade. Corporal Dunham immediately alerted his fellow Marines to the threat. Aware of the imminent danger and without hesitation, Corporal Dunham covered the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his Marines from the blast. In an



USMC photo

DUNHAM

ultimate and selfless act of bravery in which he was mortally wounded, he saved the lives of at least two fellow Marines. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty,

Corporal Dunham gallantly gave his life for his country, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

Marine Corps launches physical training uniform survey

Press Release

Marine Corps Systems Command

MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND, Quantico, Va. —

Effective Jan. 15, Marine Corps Systems Command's Program Manager for Infantry Combat Equipment is conducting a survey, soliciting input from Marines for the Commandant's Physical Training Uniform initiative.

Concluding Jan. 31, the results will influence Marine Corps Systems Command's development efforts for a new jacket and trouser intended for wear in cold weather.

These articles of clothing will be added to the currently available Marine Corps sweat suit and sweatshirt authorized for wear.

All active duty and reserve Marines are invited to participate in the comprehensive survey.

This questionnaire will include such topics as design, comfort, color, pockets and insignias.

The survey will be accessible

online at the MCSC Web site: <http://www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil/Survey/TakeSurvey.asp?SurveyID=l3Hlp4K0mn5LI>; the Marine Corps Uniform Board Web site: <http://www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil/sites/mcub/>; the United States Marine Corps Web site: www.usmc.mil; and the PM ICE Web site: <http://www.marcorsyscom.usmc.mil/sites/pmice/>.

"We're trying to make sure those features are what Marines want, so we're going to ask them so we can build those requirements around their needs," said Portia Blunt, project officer for PM ICE.

We're looking to reach as many Marines as possible. We want them to understand that their input is paramount to getting them what they want."

As a conduit for Marines, PM ICE will continue to conduct such surveys for Marine input on new initiatives related to its mission to enhance the performance.



File photo

A Marine from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 carries his unit's guidon during Marine Air Group 24's motivational run.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 78. East wind around 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. East wind around 14 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

High — 78

Low — 69

Saturday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 78. East wind between 11 and 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Night — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

High — 78

Low — 69

Sunday



Day — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 79. East wind around 11 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. West wind around 8 mph.

High — 79

Low — 69



A convoy is stopped after an improvised explosive device is spotted ahead. Lance Cpl. Justin W. Lowe, team leader, 2nd squad, 1st Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, radios in the find- ing and informs the rest of the convoy.

Hittin’ the road: Convoy training at the East Ranges

Story by
Sgt. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Photos by
Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — As part of their workup training for an upcoming deployment to Iraq, Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, took to the East Ranges aboard Schofield Barracks Jan. 10 to take part in convoy training.

“We are starting our pre-deployment training, and today is really teaching the Marines the basics of convoy training,” said



A Marine assigned to Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, posts security after his squad found an improvised explosive device during convoy training at the East Ranges on Schofield Barracks Jan. 10. Lima Company Marines conducted convoy training to ready newer Marines for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Capt. Quintin D. Jones, company commander, Lima Company, 3/3. “They are being taught how to perform pre-combat inspections for vehicles and for their patrols.

“We are also forming vehicle teams for the companies so every platoon has the capability of having a mobile assault platoon.”

According to Jones, of the 78 Marines who took part in the training, roughly 50 of the Marines are new to Lima Company and have not yet deployed.

As the four convoys traveled through a four-mile course, Marines were tasked with identifying improvised explosive devices. During the convoy Marines used different types of vehicles, which they may not have had the opportunity to operate before.

“It’s just an adjustment for the new Marines doing the (practical applications) and being able to identify an IED – knowing the explosive range of one, looking for trigger wires, and not getting in the kill zone,” said Lance Cpl. Lorenzo C. Reid, team leader, Weapons Platoon.

“These Marines are ‘ground pounders’ just out of the (School of Infantry) and don’t know a lot about the mobile transport side,” Reid explained. It’s a whole different aspect, but their instincts kicked in, and they’re doing well for a first time. They just need to be fine-tuned.”

Reid, a native of Greensboro, N.C., has been with Lima Company since 2004 and has been to Iraq and Afghanistan with the unit. The 22-year-old was evaluating the Marines as the convoys went through the course.

“The Marines need to learn the little basic tactics we all need to survive in combat,” said Reid. “They need to be a ‘jack-of-all-trades’ – being able to perform well when thrown into any situation.”

Private First Class Aaron W. Legg, rifleman, 1st Platoon, has been with the company for less than two months and this was his first convoy training.

“We did a little bit of it in SOI, but it was nothing like this,” said the native of Lexington, Ala. “I can say I’ve already learned a lot in these past 20 minutes. It’s a lot of knowledge all at once, but the Marines who have been deployed before make sure we know what we are doing and how to do it. They also let us know what we do wrong and how to correct it.”

“For their first convoy (operation), they’re doing an outstanding job,” said Lance Cpl. Julio C. Montemayor, squad leader, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon. “They’re motivated and move when you tell them to. We ask them to give 110 percent, and that’s exactly what all of them are doing.”

Lance Corporal Justin W. Lowe, team leader, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, who was deployed with Lima Company in support of

Operation Iraqi Freedom, said the Marines are catching on quickly to what they need to learn before the deployment.

“The Marines literally learned five to 10 minutes prior to going out what V-sweeps and short security halts are – among other things – before having to go out and do them,” said the native of Tampa, Fla. “They paid attention, went out with confidence, and did the best they could. These guys are always willing to learn and respond very well to pressure.”

The 21-year-old said the Marines just need to get out of the “boot camp mindset” because they tend to move too fast without thinking about what they are doing, and that can have drastic repercussions in a combat environment.

“Something I told them, that my team leader told me, is to ‘look professional; feel professional; act professional.’ I’ve always lived by that and, hopefully, they will apply it to what they are doing,” said Lowe. “From what I’ve seen so far, though, they’ll be 110 percent ready by the time we get (to Iraq).”

Upcoming training for the Marines will include convoy simulation training aboard Schofield Barracks during which the Marines will be in a simulator that will present different scenarios that will force the Marines to react to different threats.

“Right now the Marines have the mindset and focus they need to get ready for Iraq – for that ‘Superbowl,’” said Reid. “There’s no practice out there.”



Lance Corporal Justin W. Lowe, team leader, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, radios in an improvised explosive device sighting Jan. 10 at Schofield Barracks during convoy training.



Above: Dummy improvised explosive devices, pictured here, were layed out throughout a convoy course at the East Ranges on Schofield Barracks. Marines from Hawaii-based Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conducted convoy training Jan. 10 to teach newer Marines convoy operations and how to sweep for IEDs.

Left: Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, look for improvised explosive devices while riding in the back of a 7-ton truck during convoy training Jan. 10.

Sailor receives Expeditionary Warfare Insignia

Petty Officer 3rd Class Chad Hallford
Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

NORFOLK, Va. — Deputy Commander, Naval Expeditionary Combat Command Rear Adm. James Barnett Jr. pinned Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew A. Tronboll, a master-at-arms, with the first stateside enlisted Expeditionary Warfare Specialist insignia in a ceremony aboard Naval Station Norfolk Jan. 9.

The Expeditionary Warfare Specialist insignia signifies that a Sailor is operationally competent and has acquired the additional knowledge that enhances the understanding of warfighting, mission effectiveness, and unit survivability.

Tronboll, who's assigned to Mobile Security Squadron 6, Detachment 25, Portsmouth, Va., completed his personal qualification standards for the insignia ahead of many of his peers.

"It's a fairly lengthy qualification process. That's why I'm so impressed he finished so quickly," said Barnett.

Tronboll was influential in the development of his command's unit-specific qualification, writing many of the questions and by becoming force protection training

team member qualified.

In January 2006, the Navy created the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, bringing Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Naval Coastal Warfare, Riverine Forces, Combat Camera Atlantic, the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support functions and the Seabees under one umbrella. The command integrates all warfighting requirements for expeditionary combat and combat support elements. This transformation allows for standardized training, manning and equipping of Sailors who will participate in maritime security operations and the Global War on Terrorism as part of a joint force.

"For more than 200 years, we have had to project that sea power ashore. Many of these capabilities we've had for a long time. NECC gathers them together, makes them coherent and consistent," said Barnett.

"I am a 26-year-old first class petty officer who will probably never see a ship. I have no way to get a warfare pin, because surface and air warfare are not options for my current command," said Tronboll. "The (EWS) pin is definitely something we needed to do to become competitive."



Seaman Patrick Gearhiser
Rear Admiral James Barnett Jr. pins the Expeditionary Warfare Specialist insignia on the uniform of Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew A. Tronboll, a master-at-arms, assigned to Mobile Security Squadron 6, Detachment 25, Portsmouth, Va., during an awards ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. This is the Navy's first Expeditionary Warfare Specialist insignia to be awarded to a Sailor in the continental United States.

Train like you fight



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
A Marine assigned to Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, posts security as other Marines start to run back to their convoy after sweeping for improvised explosive devices, Jan. 10, at Schofield Barracks. Lima Company Marines are conducting training in preparation of their upcoming deployment to Iraq where they will be serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Demonstration and celebration



Spc. Abel Trevino
As part of their Iraqi Army Celebration Day ceremony at Forward Operating Base Constitution, a commando team from 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Divison demonstrates tactics used in raiding suspected terrorist locations. The raid was complete with flash and smoke grenades and mock casualties that required treatment.

Marine Forces Reserve examines ongoing use, abuse of government travel charge cards

Pfc. Mary A. Staes
Marine Forces Reserve

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans — Marines who travel on official orders should be familiar with the process of Temporary Assigned Duty – from orders to using their government travel charge card and filing a travel claim soon after returning.

Some Marines, however,

become confused in the process or use their charge cards improperly. Failure to pay the bill can lead to the command and the card issuer (Bank of America) taking action, and putting Marines on a delinquency list when their account isn't paid on time. "We pull up the delinquency list weekly," said Gunnery Sgt. Claude L. Ormand, assistant agency/organization program

coordinator for Headquarters Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve. "It's constantly being updated." After 30 days of nonpayment, the command sends the account holder a letter, reminding them their bill is overdue. Bank of America will send a letter 15 days later, stating the account has not been paid. Ten days after that, a pre-suspension letter is sent, warning the user that if the amount

due is not paid, the account will be suspended. After being overdue for 60 days, the account is suspended, and another bill is sent from Bank of America. Additionally, the commander of MarForRes is briefed on accounts that are 60 days delinquent. Bank of America begins the process of securing payment directly from the cardholder's paycheck after 90 days of delin-

quency. The commander is also briefed on accounts that have reached this point. Suspended accounts will not be reactivated until the late balance is paid in full. This may have an adverse impact on a cardholder's ability to travel, requiring alternative means of funding travel. Marines may also face consequences from the command. The cardholder may be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice's Article 92, disobeying an order or regulation; or Article 134, dishonorable failure to pay a debt. Both have maximum penalties of confinement, dishonorable or bad conduct discharge, and forfeiture of pay and allowances to compensate the debt owed. Each case is looked at separately, and the penalty is based on the severity of the case. The cardholder may also be denied the ability to apply for another government charge card after a certain amount of delinquency, even if past

"The Department of Defense has a zero tolerance for account delinquencies."

**— Gunnery Sgt. Claude L. Ormand
Headquarters Battalion
Marine Forces Reserve**

amounts are paid in full. "The Department of Defense has a zero tolerance for account delinquencies," said Ormand. "The GTCC is not a personal credit card." According to Marine Corps Order 4600.40A, cardholders are required to pay their bill in full by the date shown on their billing statement. The card may only be used for official travel and travel-related expenses and is not authorized for personal purchases. Every month, when delinquent cards are audited, the bill is looked at for personal charges. "Whenever something like that happens, we wonder why the bill isn't getting paid," said Ormand. "It's important to take care of it, so that your personal credit won't be affected and no disciplinary action will be taken."

Checking flaps



Seaman David Danals


A plane captain signals the pilot to check the flaps of an F/A-18F from the "Jolly Rogers" of Strike Fighter Squadron 103 aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Eisenhower and embarked Carrier Air Wing 7 are on a regularly scheduled deployment in support of Maritime Security Operations. The operation helps set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. These operations deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons, or other material.



In your lifetime, your odds of making a hole-in-one are 1 in 12,000.
Your odds of developing skin cancer are 1 in 5.

More than 1 million Americans will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year.

"Do your skin a favor — wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher and my personal favorite, wear a wide-brimmed hat."
— Greg Norman



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www.melanomafoundation.com
Public Service of MidWeek

Submit Your Entries for the 2007 Voting Slogan Contest

News Release
Department of Defense

The 2008 primary and general elections promise to be very exciting, and we need a slogan to inspire interest and participation.

The Voting Slogan Contest is a biennial contest sponsored by the Federal Voting Assistance Program in its efforts to promote interest in elections among citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act – members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marine, their families, and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

It is very easy to participate. Just

create a simple slogan (or slogans) that expresses in your own words the importance of voting or something that may inspire someone to vote, and submit it to the FVAP.

Upon completion of the contest, April 9, a panel of independent judges will review slogan submissions and choose the winning slogan on its originality and motivational value.

This winning slogan will be featured in the FVAP's 2008 information campaign which focuses on increasing voter awareness among U.S. citizens worldwide and encouraging them to participate.

In addition, slogans will be posted on the FVAP Web site at www.fvap.gov in the 2008-2009

Voting Assistance Guide, on motivational posters, audiovisual materials and in other FVAP publications and manuals.

The contest winner and runners-up will not only feel the satisfaction of knowing that their slogan is helping improve voter awareness, but they will also be given a certificate of recognition for their contribution to this important endeavor.

There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may submit, but all slogans must be submitted separately (only one slogan per entry). The deadline for submission is April 9.

All submissions must include your full name, (service, if military), mail-

ing address, daytime telephone number, fax number and email address so that we may contact you upon winning.

Send entries via one of the following methods:

Send e-mail to:
slogan@fvap.ncr.gov. Text only, one slogan per email with contact information on each email. Enter "Voting Slogan Contest" on Subject line. Due to security concerns, email messages with attachments are subject to deletion.

Send fax to:
(703) 696-1352 or DSN 426-1352. Visit the FVAP Website for toll-free fax

numbers from 51 countries. Submit separate page for each slogan with contact information on each page. No cover sheet is necessary.

Mail to:
Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
Attn.: Voting Slogan Contest
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1155
If submitting by mail, please type or print (legibly) on regular 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper one slogan per page with contact information on each page.
Please join the FVAP in helping to inspire others to vote by submitting your entry today. You could be one of this year's winners.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance provides free service

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC, Hawaii

— Tax season has come once again. With W-2s now available for service members at <http://myPay.dfas.mil>, they may be wondering where they can go for tax assistance.

That assistance can be found at the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Staff Judge Advocate's office, where volunteers with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will fill most tax filing needs.

The VITA program provides free, basic tax preparation assistance to military personnel and their families.

This includes filing returns and assisting with some small business and

rental property forms.

The program enlists volunteers from throughout the ranks and trains and certifies them in basic tax preparation.

“For 11 years we have provided this service, and we have had a lot of satisfied service members,” said Nanette Asam, VITA coordinator and legal assistant at Camp H.M. Smith.

That satisfaction comes from the cost-efficient aspects of the VITA program that paid tax preparers cannot offer.

Some companies charge \$49 for a basic tax return. That fee increases with each additional form that is required to complete the return.

With VITA there is no cost to the service member.

“The program saves them a lot of money and time,” said Asam. “We are also able to do E-Filing, so they can get their

return within one to two weeks.”

VITA volunteers are certified tax preparers and are fully capable of completing a full and accurate return.

Last year alone, the VITA office at MarForPac processed 650 returns, totaling \$1 million in returns.

To make certain a service member's tax return is filed correctly, he or she needs to make sure to bring all pertinent information the appointment with the volunteer.

The following is what a service member needs to bring to have his tax returns prepared:

-Proof of identification – such as a military identification card or driver's license.

-Social Security card for the service member, his spouse and dependents or a Social Security number verification letter issued

by the Social Security Administration.

-Birth dates for the service member, his spouse and dependents listed on the tax return.

-Current year's tax package if received from the IRS.

-Wage and earning statement(s). (Forms W-2, W-2G and/or 1099-R from all employers.)

-Interest and dividend statements from banks. (Form 1099)

-A copy of last year's federal and state return – if applicable and available.

-Bank routing number and account number for direct deposit.

-Total amount paid for day-care provider and the day-care provider's

tax identification number.

It is also important to remember that in order to file taxes electronically when filing a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

For those interested in VITA services at Camp Smith, call 477-8504 or 477-8505 on or after Jan. 17 to make an appointment.

Marines at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay should call the Tax Center at

257-2110 for assistance.

The services are available to all military personnel and their family members and will be available from Jan. 22 to April 16.

VITA assistance is provided by appointment only. All appointments will be handled between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. throughout the workweek.

“We try to provide the best service we can for service members and their families,” said Asam. “We are here for them.”

MAG-24 reports ‘Clean Month’

Marine Aircraft Group 24, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has had no reported cases of Fraud, Waste & Abuse during the 1st Quarter of FY-07. To report a case of FW&A involving members of MAG-24, call Major Fuller at 257-1412 during normal working hours. For after hours/weekend reports, please call the MAG-24 FW&A hotline at 257-1416.